¶ A PLAINE OR moſte true report of a daungerous ſeruice, ſtoutely attempted, and manfully brought to paſſe by Engliſh men, Scottes men, Wallons & other worthy ſoldiours, for the taking of *Macklin* on the ſodaine, a ſtrong Citee in Flaunders: ſette forthe at large with ſpeciall pointes to bee noted: by *Thomas Churchyard gentleman.*

1580.

¶ *Imprinted at London by Jhon Perin, dwellyng in Paules Churchyarde, at the Signe of the Angell.*

TO THE RIGHT honorable my ſinguler good Lorde, the Lorde Norrice: Thomas Church-yard wiſheth bleſſednesse of life, muche honor in the worlde and the beſte happe can bee deſired.

MY good lorde the fauor and Noble dealynges towards me in the dayes you were lorde embaſſadour in Fraunce, when your aide and pollicie (by meane of a paſſeport) conuayed me from danger to the Prince of Orrange, made me often remember that ſutche courteſies with good will or ſeruice ſhould bee re-

quited. But hauyng small power for the publishyng of duetie, and little abilitie to requite a good tourne (watchyng occasion to bee gratefull) I take suche matter as tyme doeth minister for a furtherer of my expectation, and a meane to encrease my credite with your lordship. And conseryng whē dolefull newes was brought of one of your cheefest sonnes dedde in Irelande, I wrote a heauie Epitaphe, I thought now hearyng greate and good newes of another (both in nature and valliancie brother to the eldest who GOD hath called) to make a pece of amēds, for the saluyng of my first presumption, & the throughly expressyng of my present desire of duetifull doyng. So my good Lorde leauyng

circum-

circumstance of wordes and filed phrases of florishyng ceremonies, I fall to my purposed matter. It hath been an olde maner, and a newe fineneſſe in this cunnyng worlde, that ſutche as could purchace praiſe or commendation by their owne practiſes (either by pen or tong) would reape the glorie thei could get to themſelues, and leaue out the fame of others, if trothe by tract of tyme reueled not rightfull cauſes, and gaue eche well doer the reward of their workes, then if thoſe maners of menne, fineneſſe of the worlde, & greedineſſe of glorie runnes awaie with haſt to their owne commoditie, and no benefite to others: Blame not any nation (properly giuen to their priuate praiſe) to tread doun the laude

and

and honor of any strange people, neither borne in their Countrey, nor commyng to their soile, but to serue for money & sutche report of fame, as the Countrey maie spare from them selues to the Soldiours, that serue for these twoo causes before rehearsed. Notwithstanding because the eager myndes of menne (that bites at euery blaste of fame) shall not breed by their boldnesse, neither abuse nor ill custome, whereby the estimation of forwardmen should be hindered, nor the quicke forwardnesse of vainglorie should not finde too mutche occasion to triūph on the aduantage of tymè, I haue now tyme as I thinke with trothe and good laisure, written sutche intelligēce to the worlde of the taking of Macklin,

as

as I hope ſhal ſerue for a teſtimonie that my penne is euer honeſtly occupied, and that no writer maie willingly (if licẽce permit) ſuffer further report of newes to be publiſhed, then the wiſe of the world alloweth, & the generall opinions of men maie embrace. Thus wiſhing truthe alwaies (as a torche to burne on the topp of a hill) to bee looked on, and affections of men to bee tried and wreſted to the beſte conſtructions of that whiche beſte becomes a good worlde to heare, I preſent to your Lordſhip the true reportes I haue heard for the winnyng of Macklin, and ſutche thynges as there happened at Macklins miſchance: written not for that ſutche matter (or a greate deale greater) can bee hid from a noble

man

man of your callyng. But presented to keepe my acquaintaunce with my good freendes, and cause the worlde to imagine I was borne vnder a Marcial planet and signe: and neither spareth pen, studie, nor paines to prefarre Marciall people, and honour the worthiest sorte of men. So hopyng your Lordship lookes on my willyng mynde to dooe well, and turnes your face frō the defectes of my base phrase and writyng: I wishe your honor daiely to encrease, with the blessyng of God vpon your house and children. From Westminster the laste of Aprill: your Lordshippes at commaundement.

Thomas Churchyard.

Macklins miſchance.

Seche Countrey and Nations ſeekes their owne credite and aduauncement, ſo hardly any forrain ſoldier reapeth fame in a ſtrange ſoyle he ſerueth in: I meane an Engliſhe man ſeruyng out of his owne Countrey (ioyned with ſtraungers in action) ſtandes at reward of common report, or is ſubiecte to the affection of the people where he ſerueth, who regardes more their owne eſtimation, then the fame of a forraine Soldier, which ſoldier rather for fame then rewarde, goes from the natiue ſoile he was borne in, and ſeruethe a ſtraunge people for a ſmall peece of money, but yet a great portion of praiſe and good

renowne. This not spoke̅ nor applied to the discredite, and hindrance of any strangers well doyng, but in the defence and seruice of the Englishe Nation, whose labour, charge, courage, readinesse, and warlike mindes, is not inferiour to the greatest neighbours, (or furthest of you can name) nere vs, in any Marciall order, maner, discipline of warre, or hazard of life.

And for a proofe of these special pointes herein rehersed, the moste warres of christendome beares suche testimoniall and witnesse of their forewardnesse (though here at home God bee praised is peace) that few or none hath been so forward in the feeld, nor more daungerously serued. Then iniurie it were, and deane against good nature of men, and order of armes, that any nation for their owne glory (vaine as a shadowe) should eclips the dezartes and valiauncie of the Englishe now seruyng in Flanders, drawne thether for

for fame (and their owne desires to do well) and line from debt of the worlde and daunger of the Lawe. In whose commendation, and for the trothe of matter now penned, vnder good will of the wise, and sounde iudgemente of the world, I enter into a discourse and plaine order of the takyng of *Macklin*, dispraisyng no station at the seruice, nor leauyng out no matter is true, because trothe is to bee embraced, and matter depending of flatterie or affection, is vtterly to be disalowed.

It happened I beyng at the Court (where the trothe of many thynges is moste certain) I sawe a letter written out of Flaunders, from the handes of a gentilman, whose eyes beheld the very seruice and enterpryse, and the winnyng of the great towne of *Macklin*, and the letter was so well penned, & went so directly to the matter (in euery point and order) touchyng the particulars and generall takyng of the same towne,

that I was forced by the credite of the gentilman that wrote (and by probable confirmation of sondrie other reportes) to beleue the letter to be moste true, and worthie the rehearsall to the open world. But amased at the strangenesse of the hazard, and wondering not a little at the attempt (which was marueilous) I bethought me how the Spanyardes vpō a resolution emong themselues sodainly set vpon *Antwarp*, and in a smal season had the people at their mercie, and toune at their pleasure: and yet me thought this enterprise for the winnyng of *Macklin*, surpassed all the exploites that euer before I heard of, or in deede throughly vnderstode. Thā wayyng how sleightly I had gone ouer the Seruices of Flaunders, in a booke called my *Choice* knowyng that I had forgotten bothe maister Norris, maister Cādish, maister Yorke, and a nomber of others verie valiaunte gentilmen, that merites

more

more praise then my pen can giue the. I thought to make amendes with the nexte woorke I should set out, and so peisyng in the ballance of an vpright iudgemente, the weight and value of the valiauncie of men, and the inuinsible courages that resolute soldiours dooeth shewe. I tooke an occasion to publishe the letter I haue spoken of, and to stretche out the fame and honour of my countreymen, that otherwise might be darkned by disdaine, or drounced in forgetfulnesse, for want of true recorde that proceadeth from the penne of an honest writer, who iustlie maie be bold without blushyng, to report that he heareth, and maie be proued to be true. In the warrs betweene the Prince of Orrange and the *Malle contants*, for causes I nede not to touch *Mounsire de Fammai, and Mounsire de Temple*, beyng as some saie, the drawers of a drift, & to be at some execution of the practice, as appeareth by many mens

opinions,

opiniõs, the ix. of Aprill early at a determined howre, by the conſentes and deuiſes of ſuche as gouerned in Martiall affaires. Maiſter Jhon Norrice with ſeuen Enſeantes, beeyng but eight hundreth Engliſhmen (or ſomewhat more) the Colonell of thoſe companies, with the aide of the Scottes and Wallons fower hundreth, approched in orderly marche and manner (without ſound of Dromme) nere the walles of *Macklin, Monſire de Famar* promiſyng before that the Soldiours (on his honor) ſhould haue fiue monethes paie for their further encouragemente to that and all other the like ſeruices.

And theſe whole companies approched, and deuidyng them ſelues ſome for the ſkalle in one place, and ſome in an other, the one parte with Boates well manned, and the other wadyng verie depely to enter vpon the ſkalyng Ladders, ſome negligence or haſte by ſome not ſpoken of, had almoſte diſ-

couraged the whole attempte: And in the ende failed their footyng, and forced Maiſter Morrice and the power with hym, to aduaunce theim ſelues towardes the enemie, and dwell vpon their gard (with the loſſe of ſometyme) before the face of the Toune, whiche by meanes of noyes and *Alarum* the daie beyng come, was in a readineſſe for defence, and ſhotte of their peeces to their moſte aduauntage, and the aſſailantes diſcourage, defendyng a Courtaine verie ſtoutly, againſt the whiche Courtain maiſter Ihon Morrice was faine to drawe fiue hundreth ſhotte, not meanyng thereby to enter. For the Boates by miſchaunce of vnladyng of them were drouned, and the fiue hũdred ſhot was drawne to this one place, to procure the people in the toune to repaire thether, whiles ſome apointed for purpoſe, at an other place ſhould enter with more eaſe and leſſe daunger. But thoſe that were putt to

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the plonge for to wade, found the water so deepe, that it came aboue their shulders: a matter to bee marueled at, a harde aduenture, and a sore escape: But by that meanes thei found awaie to enter by Ladder at a Gate, where thei passed fiue seuerall tymes with some small power, but could enter no more but one persone at once. Yet hap serued so well, no resistaunce in that corner was made, till three hundreth of the Englishe soldiours had possessed a peece of the toune: And then the Albanoies horsemenne, thinkyng to breake through the force of footemen, charged them. So suche as foolishely aduentured to farre of the footemen, fell into the daunger of the Albanoies, whereon the horsemen gaue an other charge, and tastyng with their boldenesse the pushe of the Pike, and seeyng the Englishe stande stoutly at defence, the Albanoies wheeled about, and forsooke that maner of fighte, with the losse

losse of diuers of their horsemen.

After which repulse the Albanoies had no mynde any more to come so nere daunger, whereby the Burgoes of the toune beganne to quaile, and stoode in a little mase and doubt of the matter. Then the whole tounes men and soldiours forsooke the rampiers and manned both the brigges and streates as well as thei might: in this season and hard fight bothe doubtful and dangerous. The Englishe, Scottish, and all the other Soldiours for that attempt presente, hauyng passed ouer the gates, walles, and places of readiest entrie, marched forewardes (cryng a noble woorde) and founde great resistaunce at the ende of euery streate by whiche sharpe encounter thei were faine by little and little (as Fortune serued their hopes) to winne their ground with some losse of Soldiours who mynded more victorie, then cowardlie to retire, and at the laste with

mutche a doe and long bickeryng (the tounes menne for their libertie and liues, and the assailantes for fame and conquefte) thei came in vewe of the Market place, where the tounes men and their ſtouteſt companies ſtood in order of battaile, euery waie flancked with ordinaunce: But as the French man ſaieth, *Il fallait aualler cela*, the Soldiours meanyng to trie what Fortune durſte dooe, gaue a luſtie charge, and by Gods helpe, and the greate courage of ſondrie ſtoute gentilmen, and officers of credite and value, thei had the vpper hande of their enemies, with whom thei made as ſhort worke as thei might: But in deede before apparaunte victorie could any waie bee knowne, greate ſtruggling and ſtoute ſturre on bothe ſides was ſeen. and maiſter Jhon Norrice was matched with a luſtie Limbfter, a breachleſſe Freer called Brother Peter, the onely manne that made and maintained

all

all the broile and businesse, who had put on a resolute mynde, either to kille Maister Norrice, or els to bee slaine hym selfe, and dealt blowes so brauelie in this his determination, that he hitt maister Norrice with a Halbert two full thwackes on the Curate, whiche blowes wer sone reuenged by maister Norrice, who dispatched ỹ Freer, and gaue hym a dedde paie in recompence of his paines. This gallaunte Freer thus slain, ended all the strief and biodie braule: for then euery one cried *Misericorde*, and fell pitifully at the feete of the Soldiours, who findyng victorie vsed not mutche extremitie. For the nomber of all those that were slaine were not aboue twoo hundreth persones: one letter declareth that the gouernoure with the Albanoizes, dispairyng a little before the ouerthrowe fledde (out at a backe Porte or Posterne) to Louain and so saued their liues: an other letter saith the gouernor

was taken prisoner. Oure Englishe Nation losse in their companie a fiftcene Commoners, but as I beleeue thei were all gentlimen Soldiours. For to the nomber of thirtie Englishe men were slaine, and fower score sore hurte: whiche argues of eight hundreth, one hundreth and more were likelie to haue paied their liues for their enterprise. And further the losse or hurtyng of so many oure Nation, manifestly declares that thei did most of the seruice, and deserues therefore the moste honor: how so euer the printyng of the firste newes bee taken and vnderstoode, one Maister Smithe, twoo valiaunte Lieutenantes, Maister Humfrey Turner an Enseante, Maister Jones a gallant yong Soldiour, were worthely seen seruc, and slaine in the action. By a misfortune after the fight Maister Whitchurche, and Maister Heddleis brother of the Garde was slaine: and of all the other

Nations

Nations that came with the Engliſh, as yet can be knowne was but twoo perſones ſlaine in the enterpriſe.

Nowe yet I praie you, heare what an other man of good credite wrote of this matter, who ſtoode and plainely beheilde the ſeruice from the beginning to thende. The power of twelue hundreth in all, whereof eight hundreth were Engliſhemen, ſet forward from Filforde and came to *Macklin*, as eager as Haukes that ſeeketh their praie, wadyng to the chinne, and climyng ouer Iron gates, as men that cared not for life, ſo fame might be gotten. Yea ſurely ſaieth he, the ſtrengthe of the toune conſidered, there was neuer vnder the cope of heauen, ſuche an enterpriſe taken in hand, and brought to ſo glorious a victorie. For ſaieth he though very good captaines might after long fight & hurtes forſake the aſſault, theſe ſoldiers wer ſo deſirous of ſeruice, that thei would not in any caſe

at

at no tyme retire, and beeyng entered the toune but a very fewe, they fought it out so manfullie, that maister Roulande Yorke stept into the water, wadyng after them to their succour: And at the present displaying of his Enseant, he loste his Lieutenant, his Sergeante, and Maister Jones his Enseante bearer, and he hym self shotte through his Dublette, and Maister Norrice not as a Collonell, but as a common Soldiour, leddc his Soldiors the waie through thicke and thyn, where moste daunger appeared. And encountered Frier Peter, who was cheefleader of all the Priestes in the toune, he was in daunger to be slaine, for the Frier firste shotte of his peece, then he tooke hym to his Pike or Halberte, and laste fell to his swoorde, and so like a couragious Confessour valliauntly lost his life. And when all the broyle was in a maner ended, he saith that looked vpon all these dooynges,

Mounsire

Mounſire de Temple, & Mounſire de Fammai came to the toune, or were peraduenture about the toune nere the ſeruice, for the aunſwerynge their hope, and furthering of the matter expected. Yet haue thei no ſuche cauſe to bee written of, as thoſe that wer the onely executioners of the ſeruice in deede: wherfore the firſte printed booke of this newes muſt be wayed, accordyng to the trothe and vmore of the matter.

After the toune was wonne, Maiſter Norrice did what he might too keepe his people from pillage, but in the meane while Temples men toynyng with the Scottes gotte the beſt booties: whereupon the Engliſhmen fell to take that eaſely might bee had, either of Churchmen or Cloiſter houſes, but eſpecially thei ſearched the Cloiſters and Religious places, ſayyng thei were Inquiſitors for to ſeeke out Copes, Surpleſes and Veſtmentes, and to take ſo good an order by

their

their Commiſſion, that no Maſſe ſhould bee ſonge noꝛ ſaied in *Macklin* many a long yere after, foꝛ wante of gilted Challices, and golden Copes.

And the Shꝛine of Sainct Comball was ſo terriblie handeled, that it was bothe remoued out of his place, and left not woꝛthe a pennie. And the Soldiours were ſo wealthie, that the olde cuſtome of the Spaniardes was taken vp againe, foꝛ Dice plaie began ſo merrilie on the toppe of Dꝛommes heddes, that money could not tarrie in the bothome of mens purſes. Men that haue by their foꝛwardnes found ſuche good Foꝛtune, are to bee excuſed, though thei merrilie paſſe a little money awaie at Dice: Declaryng by that paſtime whiche ſtandeth on good happe to winne, oꝛ euill lucke to loſe. The whole world manne ſtandeth but on hazarde and chance: a matter that ſoldiours doe mutche marke, and the woꝛlde can not denie. But foꝛ all their

plaiyng

playyng at Dice (whiche Soldiours will not bee barred from) their Capitaines and Leaders, as it is reported, had more regard to that whiche was so hardly gotten, and yet to redeeme a Capitaine out of prison, maister Norrice hath paied a greate somme of money, whiche money was moste noblie employed: my freende good Capitaine Morgane that now is in *Macklin*, will I warrant you confesse thesame whē he is asked. An other poincte of honor is to bee spoken of. For when a Nonrie in the toune was readie to be spoiled, Maister Norrice hearyng that some Englishe women were emong the Noonnes, defended theim from harme, and sette them free, and used other courteties more, that is worthie the noting. When I heard of this noble parte of a Soldiour, I remembred how a greate conquerour, in a maner of the moste parte of the worlde, having *Darius* wife and a nomber of gal-

launte Ladies vnder his mercie: vsed hymself so honourably towardes his captiues, that for feare to bee tempted with their beauties, he would not scarce come where thei were, and yet were the prisoners so reuerentlie and honestly vsed (beyng women of greate callyng and birth) that *Darius* thought hym self happie (though vnfortunate Prince he was) to bee conquered of suche a noble kyng as *Alexander*, who could not onely conquer his owne affections, but winne his enemies hartes by his fauourable and Princelie dealynges: And surely greater honor is gottē by vsyng victorie wiselie, then by ouerthrowyng a multitude with manhoode, without shewyng mercie and gentilnesse. A conquerour by repressyng crueltie by courtesie, is hadd in admiration of his verie enemies, and a victor without vertue and pitifull consideration, is hated emong his freendes, and despised generally emōg

all

all kinde of people. Nowe you muste note that the Englishemen, and suche as entered the toune by hazard, furie of shotte, danger of swoorde, and pushe of the Pike, are not a little to bee honoured and praised, and more to bee commended then thousandes of those that stood a farre of, and gaue but the lookyng on. And you maie see by the same some menne are happie, not onely to passe through many perilles, but likewise to liue long, and make themselues and their soldiours ritche: and cause the fame of their Countrie to be spred as farre as the winde can blow, or the Sunne maie shine. And the more happie be our Englishemen and Scottes men, with all the reste of this attempte, that thei dwell as yet in the place thei haue taken, and mynde not to parte there fro, till the poore Soldiours bee pleased. And the keepyng the saied Toune in their handes all this while, argues thei haue deserued

too haue the charge thereof, though *Mounſire Fammai* beare the name to bee the Gouernour of *Macklin*.

Thus haue you heard the effecte & reherſall of two letters, ſent into Englande from thoſe in Flaunders, that ſawe *Macklin* bothe wonne and loſte, which commyng to light and to the open eye of the worlde, ſhowes that all tounes, fortreſſes, and holdes (bee thei neuer ſo ſtrõg) are ſubiect to ſodain ouerthrowes, and in the deuine diſpoſition of the Almightie, who viſiteth a nomber of our neighbours, with many kindes of callamities, to make vs beare in mynde his Omnipotente power, and our owne ducties to GOD and our Prince. This peece of ſeruice I haue touched, becauſe euery Nation prefarres their owne Countriemen, and the Engliſhe doe thei neuer ſo well, and be the firſt at a breach (or at the ſaulte of a Toune) thei are the laſt ſhalbe ſpoken of, and the worſt rewarded)

rewarded) especially where beste they deserue, and moste should be made of. I feare it is some mennes Deastemc, neither at home nor abroade to reape no benefite of their labours. So for this season I bid you farewell, myndyng hereafter to shewe other seruises that are forgotten in my booke of *Choice*, that was ouer hastely Printed, and must be runne ouer againe, bothe for the fame of some therein leste out, and the troth of some matters I was wrong instructed of. And to keepe the people in some good likyng of me and my woorkes. I am presently settyng out a discourse of the late yeartquake, not touched of any writer in Englishe here tofore: Though some haue touched many good pointes to bee noted, bothe learnedlie and louynglie with ductifull order, declared to God and the worlde. Thus once againe crauyng your patience and iudgemente. to read before you condempne, I

bid

Macklins mischance.

bid you adue, and goe aboute
the Printyng of my
booke presently promised.

Finis.